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HABITAT: *PIERIS OCCIDENTALIS NELSONI*  
(PIERIDAE)

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NELSON'S WHITE, *Pieris occidentalis nelsoni* W. H. Edwards, is the Alaskan subspecies of the widespread Western White and appears to represent a phenotypic transition to the Palearctic taxon *P. callidice* Hübner, whose range has recently been extended to northeastern Siberia (K. Philip, *pers. comm.*). Like Californian *P. o. occidentalis* Reakirt and lowland *P. protodice* Boisduval and LeConte, *P. o. nelsoni* is preadapted to the highly disturbed habitats created by man (compare Shapiro 1975a,b,c). The photographs offer two views of the east end of the railroad yard complex at Fairbanks, Alaska, where *P. o. nelsoni* was found commonly in July 1974. The highly disturbed sandy soil supports a large stand of the weed annual Crucifer *Lepidium densiflorum* Schrad. var. *bourgeauanum* (Thell.) C. L. Hitchc. on which the butterfly was breeding. Larvae of *Euchloe ausonides* Lucas were also found here on this plant. *Pieris napi* L. occurred in the nearby forest and occasionally ventured into the railroad yard, but did not appear to be breeding there. Other butterflies found in the railroad yard were *Colias gigantea* Strecker, *C. philodice* Latreille, *Lycæna helloides/dorcas* complex, *Plebeius saepiolus* Boisduval, and *Limenitis arthemis* Drury.

## LITERATURE CITED

- SHAPIRO, A. M. 1975a. Ecological and behavioral aspects of coexistence in six Crucifer-feeding Pierid butterflies in the central Sierra Nevada. *American Midland Naturalist* 93: 424-433.
- 1975b. Habitat: *Pieris occidentalis* (Pieridae). *J. Res. Lepid.*
- 1975c. Notes on the biology of a "weedy" butterfly, *Pieris occidentalis* (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) at Fairbanks, Alaska. *Arctic and Alpine Research* 7:



Fig. 1.—Railroad yard at Fairbanks, Alaska, looking east. Virtually the entire area from the trees at left to the road is a solid stand of *Lepidium densiflorum*.



Fig. 2.—Same area, looking south. In broken cloudiness *P. occidentalis nelsoni* thermoregulatory behavior was readily observed on bare soil among *Lepidium*, foreground.